

**Board of Historic Resources Quarterly Meeting
10 December 2020**

Sponsor Markers – Diversity

1.) Leonard Woods Lynched

Sponsor: Pound Historical Society and the Department of History and Philosophy, University of Virginia's College at Wise

Locality: Wise County

Proposed Location: Route 23 at Pound Gap

Sponsor Contact: Margaret Meade Sturgill, msturg@hughes.net; Tom Costa, tmc5a@uvawise.edu

Original text:

Last Recorded Lynching in Virginia

Near this spot on 30 November 1927, Leonard Woods, a black miner from Jenkins, KY was lynched. Earlier, Woods had been arrested for killing Herschel Deaton, of Coeburn, VA and lodged in the Whitesburg jail. Following Deaton's funeral, a white mob from Coeburn, joined by others from Kentucky, broke into the jail and brought Woods close to this spot. They hanged, shot, and burned him. The resulting furor over jurisdiction and the fact that none of the mob was arrested, prompted Virginia Governor Harry Byrd to work with the state legislature to pass the first state anti-lynching law in March 1928.

101 words/ 604 characters

Edited text:

Leonard Woods Lynched

Leonard Woods, a black coal miner from Jenkins, KY, was lynched near here on the night of 29-30 Nov. 1927. Officers had arrested Woods for allegedly killing Herschel Deaton, a white man from Coeburn, VA, and had taken him to the Whitesburg, KY, jail. On the day of Deaton's funeral, a white mob numbering in the hundreds broke into the jail and brought Woods close to this spot, where they hanged, shot, and burned him. No one was ever arrested. In the aftermath, at the urging of Norfolk editor Louis Jaffé, Norton's Bruce Crawford, and other journalists, VA Gov. Harry F. Byrd worked with the General Assembly early in 1928 to pass the nation's first law defining lynching as a state crime.

122 words/ 692 characters

Sources:

Coalfield Progress, 30 Nov. 1927, 14 May, 9 June 2019.

Crawford's Weekly, 3 Dec. 1927.

New York Amsterdam News, 7 Dec. 1927.

Baltimore Afro-American, 3, 10 Dec. 1927.

Chicago Defender, 10 Dec. 1927.

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 17 Dec. 1927.

Richmond Planet, 10 Dec. 1927.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, 30 Nov., 1, 3 Dec. 1927.

Leonard Woods Death Certificate, 1927.

Alexander S. Leidholdt, "'Never Thot This Could Happen in the South!': The Anti-Lynching Advocacy of Appalachian Newspaper Editor Bruce Crawford," *Appalachian Journal* (Winter/Spring 2011): 198-232.

Paul G. Beers, "The Wythe County Lynching of Raymond Bird: Progressivism vs. Mob Violence in the '20s," *Appalachian Journal* (Fall 1994): 34-59.

James Madison University Lynching Database: <https://sites.lib.jmu.edu/valynchings/victims/>

2.) Owens-Melvin House

Sponsor: Patrice Owens Parker, Hugo A. Owens, Jr., Paula Owens Parker

Locality: Chesapeake

Proposed Location: 732 Shell Road, Chesapeake

Sponsor Contact: Patrice Owens Parker, pparker725@aol.com

Original text:

Owens-Melvin House

This country Queen Anne-style house was built circa 1908 by James Edward and Grace Catherine Melvin Owens, the college-educated children of formerly enslaved people. It was the last home of Grace Owens's mother, Barbara Happer Melvin, and James Owens's father Isaac Owens, both of whom were enslaved in Norfolk County (now Chesapeake) Virginia. It is the birthplace of dentist and civil rights activist Dr. Hugo Armstrong Owens, who was born here in 1916. Owens broke the color barrier in 1970 when he became one of two African Americans

elected to the Chesapeake City Council. Owens served eight of his 10 years on council as vice-mayor of Chesapeake.

107 words/ 652 characters

Edited text:

Owens-Melvin House

James Edward Owens and Grace Catherine Melvin Owens, the college-educated children of formerly enslaved people, built this Queen Anne-style house ca. 1915. Their son Dr. Hugo Armstrong Owens, dentist and civil rights activist, was born here in 1916. After serving in World War II, Hugo Owens worked to desegregate public facilities in Portsmouth in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1970 he became one of the first two African Americans elected to the Chesapeake City Council. Owens served eight of his ten years on council as the city's vice-mayor. He sat on the Board of Visitors of Norfolk State University and was rector of both Virginia State University and Old Dominion University.

111 words/ 677 characters

Sources:

Survey Report, African American Historic Resources, City of Chesapeake (2010).

Martha Stewart with Melvin Albritton, "Over the Northwest River: A History of the Happer, Hopper, Harper Families of Old Norfolk County"

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 21 April 1956, 1 April 1987.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, 7 Jan. 1970, 10 March 1971, 7 Sept. 1972, 4 Dec. 1979.

Southern Workman (Dec. 1915): 700.

Hugo Owens House, DHR architectural survey form, 131-0501.

James Owens death certificate.

Grace Owens death certificate.

Elizabeth Regosin, "Lost in the Archives: The Pension Bureau Files" in John Ernest, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the African American Slave Narrative* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014).

3.) Woodville Rosenwald School

Sponsor: Woodville/Rosenwald School Foundation

Locality: Gloucester County

Proposed Location: 4310 George Washington Memorial Highway

Sponsor Contact: Dr. Wesley C. Wilson, sailboat@cox.net

Original text:

Woodville Rosenwald School

Thomas Calhoun Walker, community leader and advocate for Negro schools, personally appealed to Julius Rosenwald to bring his school project to Gloucester. Julius Rosenwald, whose project assisted in the funding of more than 5,300 schools for African American children throughout the south, agreed. Rosenwald provided sufficient funds to assist in building six schools and one teacher home in the County. Of these seven structures only the Woodville school remains. This Woodville School, a two teacher Rosenwald school, was built for \$3,500 in 1923. The funding for the school was, Negroes: \$2,500, Public: \$300.00 and Rosenwald: \$700.00.

96 words/ 638 characters

Edited text:

Woodville Rosenwald School

Thomas Calhoun Walker, community leader and advocate for African American education, led local efforts to secure support from the Julius Rosenwald Fund for the construction of six schools and one teacher's cottage in Gloucester County. Woodville School, built here ca. 1923, is the only one of the seven structures that remains. Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck, and Co., helped construct more than 5,300 school buildings for Black children across the rural South, inspired by the work of Booker T. Washington. Contributions for Woodville came from the Black community (\$2,500), the county (\$300), and Rosenwald (\$700). The two-teacher school closed by 1941.

102 words/ 668 characters

Sources:

Fisk University Rosenwald Database

Woodville School NRHP nomination, 2003.

Rosenwald School Architectural Survey, Preservation Virginia.

Thomas Calhoun Walker, *The Honey-Pod Tree: The Life Story of Thomas Calhoun Walker* (New York: The John Day Company, 1958).

4.) Augustus Nathaniel Lushington, VMD (ca. 1861 – 1939)

Sponsor: Multiple sponsors via the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation

Locality: Lynchburg

Proposed Location: 1005 Fifth St.

Sponsor Contact: Jane White, janebaberwhite@gmail.com

Original text:

Augustus Nathaniel Lushington, VMD (1870 – 1939)

A native of Trinidad, British West Indies, Dr. Augustus “Gus” Lushington practiced veterinary medicine and resided with his family here at 1005 Fifth Street. Lushington attended Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania, where he was the first Black graduate of its School of Veterinary Medicine in 1897. He practiced veterinary surgery in Philadelphia for two years, and then became an instructor in veterinary sanitary science and hygiene at Belle Meade Agricultural and industrial institute in Rock Castle Virginia. Two years later Lushington moved to Lynchburg and began his practice of large animal medicine, caring mostly for horses and cattle on nearby farms. He also held the respected positions of government meat inspector and probation officer for the juvenile court system. in this capacity he would ask the young men in his care to report to his home on Sunday mornings and from there he would take them to church with him. Lushington was active in the Episcopal Church, Chamber of Commerce, and Masons.

162 words/ 1,027 characters

Edited text:

Augustus Nathaniel Lushington, VMD (ca. 1861 – 1939)

Dr. Augustus Lushington, veterinarian, practiced in Lynchburg for nearly four decades. A native of Trinidad, he attended Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania, where in 1897 he became one of the first Black men in the U.S. to earn a degree as a doctor of veterinary medicine. By 1900 he had moved to Lynchburg and opened his practice as a large-animal veterinary surgeon, primarily caring for horses and cattle on nearby farms. He served as a statistical reporter to the federal Bureau of Animal Industry, charged with combating disease in livestock. He also worked as a probation officer and was president of the Lynchburg Negro Business League. Lushington’s home stood on this site.

114 words/ 700 characters

Sources:

A.B. Caldwell, ed., *History of the American Negro*, Virginia edition, vol. 5 (Atlanta: Caldwell Publishing Company, 1921), 117-118.

Alice S. Weiss, "Augustus Lushington, Class of 1897," *Bellwether Magazine*, vol. 1, no. 58 (Fall 2003): 8-9, 12.

Lynchburg News, Feb. 1939.

Baltimore Afro-American, 25 June 1898.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, 10 April 1922.

U.S. Census, 1900, 1920, 1930.

University of Pennsylvania catalog, 1917.

Cornell University catalog, 1922.

W. H. Waddell, *The Black Man in Veterinary Medicine* (1969), 27-28.

Cornell Alumni News, vol. 1, no. 1 (9 March 1939): 272.

New York Marriage Index, 1890.

Who's Who in Colored America (1927).

The Trinidad Official and Commercial Register (1882), 34.

5.) AKA Delta Omega

Sponsor: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Delta Omega Chapter

Locality: Chesterfield County

Proposed Location: near 4501 River Road, South Chesterfield

Sponsor Contact: Dr. Renee Escoffery-Torres, escoffery.torres@gmail.com

Original text:

AKA Delta Omega

On 26 Feb. 1921, Delta Omega became the first graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated® chartered on the East Coast, fourth oldest graduate in the United States, and first Greek-lettered organization on Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute (later VSU).

Six VNII faculty members, Pauline Puryear, Louise Hunter, May Seabrook, Lucy Bullock, Edna Colson, and Pearl Richardson along with National President Lorraine Green formed Nu chapter

(graduate). The chapter name was changed to Delta Omega in 1922. Four dormitories, one archives building, two auditoriums, located on VSU and a library in Ettrick, are named for Delta Omega members.

99 words/ 656 characters

Edited text:

AKA Delta Omega

On 26 Feb. 1921, Delta Omega became the first graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.® chartered on the East Coast, the fourth graduate chapter in the U.S., and the first Greek-letter organization at Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute (later Virginia State University). VNII faculty members Pauline Puryear, Pearl Grigsby, Lucy Johnson, Edna Colson, Mae Hatchette, and Louise Stokes formed Nu chapter, renamed Delta Omega in 1922. Puryear later became national president of AKA, the first Greek-letter organization founded by and for African American women. Several buildings at VSU and the building that houses the Ettrick-Matoaca Library were named for Delta Omega members.

105 words/ 694 characters

Sources:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Omega Chapter Charter, 1921.

Renee Escoffery-Torres, *Nine Decades of Timeless Service: Delta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., 1921-2013* (Petersburg: Dietz Press, 2014).

Earnestine Green McNealey, *Priceless Pearls: Dimensions of Sisterhood and Service in Alpha Kappa Alpha* (Chicago: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., 2017).

Barbara W. Davis, *The Mid-Atlantic Story: Continuing the Vision* (Baltimore: American Literary Press, Inc., 2001).

Crisis Magazine, July 1923.

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 9 Jan. 1926, 8 Jan. 1927, 23 March 1968.

6.) Beulah School, Rosenwald Funded

Sponsor: Pyramid Network Services, LLC

Locality: Chesterfield County

Proposed Location: 21210 Hull Street Road, Moseley

Sponsor Contact: Cheryl Taylor, clt20092@yahoo.com

Original text:**Beulah School, Rosenwald Funded**

Beulah School, built between 1917-20 as a one-room African-American schoolhouse on what is today U.S. Route 360. Of the several county school houses for black students, Beulah was built using the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which was established in 1917 by the president of Sears, Roebuck and Company to construct schools for African Americans across the rural South. Beulah School served students from grades one through seven and was originally housed in the Beulah Church across from this site. Of the \$1,800 building cost, the majority of the funds came from public contributions. Chesterfield County began providing secondary education for Black children in 1942 when Hickory Hill became the County's first black high school.

113 words/ 724 characters

Edited text:**Beulah School, Rosenwald Funded**

Beulah Baptist Church, just across the road, housed a school for African American children in the Skinquarter community until about 1920, when the school moved into a new building on this site. Contributions for the one-teacher school came from the Black community, the county, and the Julius Rosenwald Fund. This fund, created by the president of Sears, Roebuck, and Co. and inspired by the work of Booker T. Washington, helped build more than 5,000 schools for Black children in the rural South between 1917 and 1932. Beulah, one of six Rosenwald schools in Chesterfield County, served students in grades 1-7. It closed in 1948 when four elementary schools were consolidated nearby at Winterpock.

113 words/ 698 characters

Sources:

Deed, Chesterfield County, 26 Oct. 1916.

Fisk University Rosenwald Database

Bernard R. Anderson "Beulah Rosenwald School at Skinquarter, Chesterfield County, VA"

Beulah Baptist Church History, <https://www.beulahsq.com/church-history>

Bernard R. Anderson, "Rosenwald Schools in Chesterfield County, Virginia: An Effort to Improve Facilities for African-Americans in the Early Twentieth Century," *The Messenger*, no. 108 (Jan. 2014): 3-5.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, 20 Nov. 1947.

7.) Armistead S. Nickens (1836-1906)

Sponsor: The Nickens Family

Locality: Lancaster County

Proposed Location: Kamps Mill Road, just south of Camps Millpond

Sponsor Contact: Francine Hunter, Fahunterot1@gmail.com

Original text:

Armistead S. Nickens (1836-1906)

Born into a long-standing family of free people of color in Lancaster County, Virginia, Nickens descends from 13 ancestors who fought in the American Revolution. His prosperity and standing in the community was such that after the Civil War, the local Freedman's Bureau listed him as a respectable citizen eligible to run for public office. He was duly elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, serving from 1871-1875, the first black to hold an elected office in the County until the late 20th Century. Nickens advocated a bill in the state legislature for the construction of a bridge across the Rappahannock River. The bridge would connect Tappahannock and Richmond County, benefiting all the landowners and tradesmen in the area. Now known as the Downing Bridge, it is still in use today. In 1876, Nickens established the first school, Lancaster Roller Mill School, a log cabin, one-room building, for African American children in the county. The schoolhouse was located near here on the land he donated. In 1892, Nickens helped to build Calvary Baptist Church in Kilmarnock, VA.

177 words/ 1,085 characters

Edited text:

Armistead S. Nickens (ca. 1836-1906)

Armistead Nickens was born into a long-standing family of free people of color that included at least 12 veterans of the Revolutionary War. In 1867 the local agent of the Freedmen's Bureau identified him as a strong potential candidate for public office. After attending Virginia's Republican State Convention in Sept. 1871, Nickens won election to the House of Delegates that year and served two terms, becoming Lancaster County's first Black elected official. He is credited with establishing one of the first schools for African Americans in the county and with helping to build Calvary Baptist Church in Kilmarnock, where he was a deacon. Nickens owned more than 150 acres of land by 1906.

113 words/ 693 characters

Sources:

U.S. Census, 1900.

Virginia Citizen, 4 May 1906.

Matthew S. Gottlieb, "Armistead S. Nickens (1836–1906)," *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*: https://www.encyclopediaofvirginia.org/Nickens_Armistead_S_1836-1906

Virginia Elections and State Elected Officials Database Project:
<http://vavh.electionstats.com/php/bio.php?pid=5535>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86252547/armistead-stokolas-nickens>

Luther Porter Jackson, *Negro Office-Holders in Virginia, 1865–1895* (Norfolk: Guide Quality Press, 1945).

Luther Porter Jackson, "Virginia Negro Soldiers and Seamen in the American Revolution," *Journal of Negro History*, vol. 27, no. 3 (July 1942): 247-287.

Dorothy Norris C. Cowling, ed., "Historical Notes on The Life and Achievements of Blacks in Lancaster County and the State of Virginia (1619–1974)," A Study Sponsored by The Lancaster County African American Historical Society (Richmond, Dec. 1991): 86–88, 239–245, 305, 352.

Carolyn H. Jett, *Lancaster County, Virginia: Where the River Meets the Bay* (Lancaster, VA: The Lancaster County History Book Committee in association with The Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library, 2003), 226, 294, 388, 396, 398.

Paul Heinegg, *Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina*, vol. 2 (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005).

Sponsor Markers

1.) Assawaman Church of England

Sponsor: Francis Makemie Society

Locality: Accomack County

Proposed Location: 12224 Atlantic Road, Assawoman

Sponsor Contact: Fitzhugh Lee Godwin Jr., flgodwin_law1@outlook.com; Cora Sue Boggs, sueboggs3@gmail.com

Original text:

Assawaman Church of England

Fifty yards North at the hilltop stood the principal Anglican Church in Accomack Parish on land donated by William Taylor in 1680. Taylor was born in England in 1612, came to Jamestown about 1633 and to the Eastern Shore by 1637. He died in 1687 and is buried in the Churchyard. The Church ceased operating by 1830. Colonial bricks can still be found on the Church site. A communion chalice from 1749 and inscribed "For the use of the Parish Church at Accomack of Assuaman" is in the care of the Episcopal Church in nearby Jenkins Bridge.

97 words/ 540 characters

Edited text:

Assawaman Church of England

Fifty yards north on the hilltop stood Assawaman Church of the Anglican Accomack Parish, formed in 1663. The brick sanctuary was built after 1680 on land donated by William Taylor, a native of England who had settled on the Eastern Shore by 1637. Francis Makemie, a founder of American Presbyterianism, owned a gristmill on the adjoining lot. After the Church of England was disestablished following the Revolutionary War, Assawaman Church closed early in the 19th century and was used as a schoolhouse. A communion chalice from 1749-1750 inscribed "For the use of the Parish Church of Accomack at Assuaman" is in the care of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in nearby Jenkins Bridge.

111 words/ 677 characters

Sources:

Susie M. Ames, *Studies of the Virginia Eastern Shore in the Seventeenth Century* (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1940).

Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties* (Richmond: Virginia Historical Society, 1951).

Nora Miller Turman, "The Eastern Shore of Virginia, 1603-1964," *The Eastern Shore News*, 1964.

"Virginia Gleanings in England," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 15, no. 3 (Jan. 1908): 297-306.

E. Alfred Jones, *The Old Silver of American Churches* (Letchworth, England, 1913), 168-169.

George Carrington Mason, "The Colonial Churches of the Eastern Shore of Virginia," *William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 20, no. 4 (Oct. 1940), 449-474.

William Stevens Perry, ed., *Historical Collections of the American Colonial Church*, vol. 1: Virginia, (Hartford, CT: Church Press Company, 1870), 300-302.

2.) Chilton Family and the Revolutionary War

Sponsor: John Chilton McAuliff

Locality: Westmoreland County

Proposed Location: southern side of Rte. 622 (Currioman Rd.) Exact location: 38.147997, -76.772632

Sponsor Contact: John Chilton McAuliff, johncmcauliff@gmail.com

Original text:

John Chilton and Currioman

Currioman was owned by John Chilton II (1666-1726.) His gravestone lies just ahead, restored by Gen. John Chilton McDonnell in 1927. It reads: "Here Lyeth in hopes of a joyful Refurrection the Body of Mr. John Chilton Merchant who Departed this life the 11th day of July Anno Domini 1726 Aged about 60 Years." His grandsons, Thomas, William, and Charles Chilton, signed the Leedstown Resolves, the first act of rebellion that would lead to the Revolutionary War. Another grandson, John Chilton, served as a Captain in the Revolutionary war and was killed at the Battle of Brandywine. Currioman served as an important port in Colonial and 19th century America, shipping tens of thousands of tons of goods each year.

119 words/ 714 characters

Edited text:

Chilton Family and the Revolutionary War

John Chilton II (ca. 1666-1726), planter, merchant, and Westmoreland County justice, resided here on a large tract known as Currioman. His gravestone from 1726, in the family cemetery just ahead, was restored in 1927. On 27 Feb. 1766, Chilton's grandsons Thomas, William, and Charles Chilton signed the Leedstown Resolves, one of the first large public protests against the Stamp Act, a tax imposed on the colonies by the British Parliament. During the Revolutionary War, Thomas sat on the Westmoreland County Committee and Charles served in the Fauquier County militia. Another grandson, John Chilton, was a captain in the Continental Line and was killed at the Battle of Brandywine in Sept. 1777.

111 words/ 698 characters

Sources:

Will of John Chilton, Westmoreland County, 7 Aug. 1726.

Stella Pickett Hardy, *Colonial Families of the Southern States of America* (1911).

Currioman, DHR Architectural Survey Form, 096-0036; Archaeological Site Record, 44WM0201.

David W. Eaton, *Historical Atlas of Westmoreland County* (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1942).

Revolutionary Virginia: The Road to Independence, vols. 1-6 (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia).

Walter Biscoe Norris Jr., ed., *Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1653-1983* (Montross, VA: Westmoreland County Board of Supervisors, 1983).

3.) American Revolution on the Frontier

Sponsor: Meadowbrook Museum of History

Locality: Montgomery County

Proposed Location: 847 Alleghany Spring Road, Shawsville

Sponsor Contact: Mac Sammons, macsammons11@gmail.com

Original text:

American Revolution on the Virginia Frontier

The Crocketts were among the earlier settlers on the south fork of the Roanoke. Col Joseph Crockett, Col Hugh Crockett and Maj Walter Crockett were all active militia officers in the Revolution. Maj Walter Crockett asked Gen William Campbell for help in defeating Tories intent on capturing the lead mines, so critical as a source of ammunition for the Continental Army. Crockett reported "shot one, hanged one and whipt several". Campbell and Crockett were so active in defeating the Tories that in Oct 1779, on motion by Gen Nelson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Gen Assy in Williamsburg exonerated both for any actions not strictly warranted by law. In 1780, as Sheriff of Montgomery, Crockett delivered 40,000 pounds current money to Gov Thomas Jefferson to support the Continental Army. In 1780, Col Joseph Crockett was ordered to lead a militia unit to the Ohio River to rebuild Fort Randolph and to re-supply Kellys Fort on the Kanawha.

160 words/ 962 characters

Edited text:

American Revolution on the Frontier

Joseph and Jeanne de Vigné Crockett settled on this farm early in the 1760s. Three of their sons served as officers in the Revolutionary War. Col. Hugh Crockett, who lived here until his death in 1816, led militia during expeditions to North Carolina in 1780 and 1781. Col. Walter Crockett represented Montgomery County in the General Assembly in Williamsburg and, as a militia commander, suppressed a Loyalist plot against the lead mines near Wytheville in 1779. Lt. Col. Joseph Crockett served in the Continental Line at the Battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth and later led a Virginia battalion that served under Brig. Gen. George Rogers Clark in the West and Northwest.

112 words/ 686 characters

Sources:

Joseph Crockett, will (12 Jan. 1767), Augusta County Will Book 3, 506-509.

Randell Jones, *Before They Were Heroes at King's Mountain* (Winston-Salem: Daniel Boone Footsteps, 2011).

F. B. Kegley, *Kegley's Virginia Frontier* (Roanoke: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1938).

Patricia Givens Johnson, *William Preston and the Allegheny Patriots* (Pulaski, VA: B.D. Smith & Bros., 1976).

Marianne E. Julienne, "Walter Crockett," *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, 3: 563-565.

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/98-01-02-5631>

Joseph Crockett roll call, 1781.

Mary B. Kegley, *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters*, vol. 3.

Randal L. Hall, *Mountains on the Market: Industry, the Environment, and the South* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012).

Notable Southern Families, 204-206.

Walter Crockett to William Preston, 7 April 1779, *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 26 (1918): 371-372.

D. B. Montgomery, *A Genealogical History of the Montgomerys and Their Descendants* (Owensville, IN: J. P. Cox, 1903), 280-282.

https://books.google.com/books?id=2E06AAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_s ummary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

4.) Syms Free School

Sponsor: Virginia Society Colonial Dames XVII Century

Locality: City of Hampton

Proposed Location: near Benjamin Syms Middle School, 170 Fox Hill Road

Sponsor Contact: Faye W. Sobel, [Et2faye@verizon.net](mailto:E2faye@verizon.net)

Original text:

First Free School in America

The first free school in America was founded through the Will of Benjamin Syms dated 12 February 1634. An illiterate landowner who had the foresight to see the need to educate all citizens of this new country. He donated 8 cows and two hundred acres of land on the Pagan River to fund a free school “to educate and teach the children of the adjoining Parishes of Elizabeth Citie and Poquoson of indigent people.” The school was to be built and maintained, and the schoolmaster supported, by selling some of the cattle and their products. The date that the Syms Free School was first opened for classes is unknown but in 1647 it was described as the best in Virginia. In 1805, the land was sold and, with the authorization of the Virginia General Assembly, monies were invested in bonds to support the school. The trust fund income has continued to support public education. The original site is located on land shared by NASA and Langley AFB.

167 words/ 941 characters

Edited text:

Syms Free School

Benjamin Syms, who had settled in Virginia by 1625, endowed the first free school in the colony by his will of 1635. Syms, himself illiterate, left 200 acres of land and eight milk cows to generate income for a teacher’s salary, construction and maintenance of a school, and the support of poor children and disabled persons in the community. The school had opened by 1649 about four miles northwest of here on property that later became part of Joint Base Langley-Eustis. In 1805 the Syms Free School was combined with the nearby Eaton Charity School, which Thomas Eaton had endowed in 1659; proceeds from the sale of their land were used to establish Hampton Academy.

115 words/ 669 characters

Sources:

Will of Benjamin Syms, courtesy of the Hampton History Museum.

1624/5 Virginia Muster

A Perfect Description of Virginia (London, 1649).

Helen Jones Campbell, "The Syms and Eaton Schools and Their Successor," *William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 20, no. 1 (Jan. 1940): 1-61.

Thomas Wheaton, et al., *Archaeological Site Survey and Testing: Langley Air Force Base, Virginia* (Stone Mountain, GA, 1992).

"Education in Colonial Virginia, Part III: Free Schools," *William and Mary Quarterly*, vol. 6, no. 2 (Oct. 1897): 71-85.

Mary Frances Armstrong, *The Syms-Eaton Free School* (1950).

Ethel Garber, "The First Free School," MA Thesis, University of Virginia, 1950.

Replacement Markers

1.) Aberdeen Gardens W-95

Sponsor: Hampton CVB

Locality: Hampton

Proposed Location: 1424 Aberdeen Road

Sponsor Contact: Mary Fugere, Mary@HamptonCVB.com

Original text (from 1994):

Aberdeen Gardens

Built "by Negroes, for Negroes," Aberdeen Gardens began in 1934 as the model resettlement community for Negro families. It was the only such community in the United States designed by a Negro architect (Hilyard R. Robinson) and built by Negro contractors and laborers. Aberdeen Gardens is composed of 158 brick houses on large garden lots, a school, and a community store, all within a greenbelt. The streets, excepting Aberdeen Road, are named for prominent Negroes. Aberdeen Gardens offered home ownership and an improved quality of life in a rural setting. In 1994 this nationally significant neighborhood was listed as a Virginia landmark and in the National Register of Historic Places, through the efforts of former and current residents.

118 words/ 744 characters

Edited text:

Aberdeen Gardens

Aberdeen Gardens, built between 1934 and 1938 under the New Deal, was an innovative homestead community conceived to improve housing quality for African American families. The only such community in the U.S. designed by a Black architect (Hilyard R. Robinson) and built by Black contractors and laborers, it consisted of a school, a store, and 158 brick houses on lots large enough for gardening and raising livestock, all within a greenbelt. The streets, excepting Aberdeen Road, were named for prominent African Americans. Aberdeen Gardens, which offered home ownership and an improved quality of life, is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

108 words/ 695 characters

2.) Birthplace of George Wythe W-85

Sponsor: Hampton CVB

Locality: Hampton

Proposed Location: 1424 Aberdeen Road

Sponsor Contact: Mary Fugere, Mary@HamptonCVB.com

Original text (from 1928):

Wythe's Birthplace

Eight miles north George Wythe, Revolutionary leader and Signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born, 1726.

17 words/ 115 characters

Edited text:

Birthplace of George Wythe

George Wythe (ca. 1726-1806), Revolutionary leader and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was very likely born at his family's Chesterville Plantation, about seven miles north. He later inherited the property. Wythe served in the House of Burgesses, the Second Continental Congress, the House of Delegates, the U.S. Constitutional Convention, and Virginia's convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution. He helped revise Virginia's laws in light of Revolutionary principles. A preeminent attorney and teacher of the law, his students included Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, and Henry Clay. Wythe was judge of Virginia's High Court of Chancery from 1778 until his death.

100 words/ 677 characters